



Homeland
Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report

18 May 2012

Top Stories

- Federal authorities established a \$150,000 reward to help catch a man who they think sent 380 white-powder envelopes and threatening letters to government offices and schools in Texas since 2008. – *CNN* (See item [21](#))
- New information indicates damage to fruit crops from a devastating April hail storm in the central San Joaquin Valley of California reached \$79.3 million. – *Fresno Bee* (See item [23](#))
- McArthur High School in Hollywood, Florida, was the scene of a mass casualty response after a mysterious rash prompted a lockdown that sent 12 students and 2 teachers to hospitals. – *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* (See item [31](#))
- The fire in the Prescott National Forest in Arizona grew to an estimated 5,400 acres, or nearly 8.5 square miles, May 16 — up from about 2,000 acres a day earlier. – *Associated Press* (See item [47](#))

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: LOW, Cyber: LOW

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) - <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *May 17, Bloomberg News* – (Utah) **QEP to pay \$4 million fine for Utah clean air violation.** QEP Resources Inc. will pay \$4 million and install pollution controls at five facilities in Utah to settle a case filed by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Environmental Protection Agency, Bloomberg News reported May 17. The company has agreed to reduce its emissions at five natural-gas compressor stations on the Uintah and Ouray Reservation. The compressor stations are sources of air pollution, emitting hazardous air pollutants, volatile organic compounds, and nitrogen oxides, according to the DOJ. To fix those problems, QEP has agreed to install additional pollution controls and replace natural gas powered instrument control systems with compressed air control systems. Those actions will eliminated about 210 tons of nitrogen oxides, 219 tons of carbon monoxide, 17 tons of hazardous air pollutants, and more than 166 tons of volatile organic compounds per year.
Source: <http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/money/54132229-79/gas-natural-qep-million.html.csp>
2. *May 17, NewsCore* – (Vermont) **Vermont becomes first State to ban fracking.** Vermont became the first State to ban the controversial natural gas drilling practice known as hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, NewsCore reported May 17. However, the law will have no immediate effect — Vermont does not have any drilling projects underway, and there is no information to suggest the State has underground gas reserves that could be tapped by fracking. The Vermont law also bans the importation and storage of wastewater associated with fracking. The drilling tactic involves the high-pressure injection of a mixture of water and chemicals deep underground to blast shale rock to release natural gas.
Source: http://www.myfoxphilly.com/dpps/news/vermont-becomes-first-state-to-ban-fracking-dpgonc-20120517-fc_20009541
3. *May 16, Reuters* – (Texas) **Two workers hurt in Texas fracking tank site blast.** Two workers were hurt in an explosion at a hydraulic fracturing tank site in south Texas May 16, a sheriff's dispatcher said. U.S. workplace safety regulators cited the company that owns the site, Vann Energy Services LLC, 3 months ago for what inspectors called serious health and safety violations. A secretary for Vann said the men were cleaning a tank at the maintenance facility that holds hydraulic fracturing or fracking tanks in Nixon, Texas, when the blast happened. In February, the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) said the company required workers to enter a fracturing tank for cleaning without first testing for atmospheric hazards or training them on the hazards of confined spaces. The OSHA proposed fining Vann \$70,200 for 17 serious violations in February. The citations included failures to: maintain electrical conductors and cords; ensure electrical equipment such as fans were approved for hazardous places; and provide covers for open pits.

Source: <http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/BRE84F0VU/US-TEXAS-FRACKING-EXPLOSION/>

4. *May 16, WVIT 30 New Britain* – (Connecticut) **Diesel fuel spill on I-95.** Fire crews responded to a diesel fuel spill at a rest stop station off of I-95 in Milford, Connecticut, May 16, according to a spokesman from the State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). About 150 gallons of diesel fuel spilled from a dispenser malfunction at the gas station, said the DEEP. Officials said the majority of the spill was contained on the pavement. The operator of the station, Alliance Energy, hired a contractor to clean up the spill.

Source: <http://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/local/Diesel-Fuel-Spill-on--I-95--151819365.html>

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *May 17, phillyBurbs.com* – (Pennsylvania; New Jersey) **DEP: On-site monitoring showed no danger in the air at Bristol fire.** On-site air quality monitoring at the scene of a massive chemical fire at Dow Chemical May 17 did not detect dangerous levels of chemicals outside the Bristol plant, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) reported. But a DEP spokeswoman said the acrid odor that started when a lightning strike May 16 ignited a fire in two storage tanks containing 154,000 gallons of ethyl acrylate and butyl acrylate may persist as the material is cleaned and removed. Many Bucks County residents, and some as far away as central New Jersey, reported a lingering chemical smell that officials said could cause minor throat and eye irritation, headaches, and nausea. In Bristol, many businesses were closed and fewer people than usual appeared to be outside. By late afternoon May 16, the smell remained so strong on Mill Street that workers at Glamorous Life closed the front door of the salon, said a saleswoman. Several schools in the Bristol area closed for the day May 16 or had early dismissals, while some New Jersey school districts canceled after-school outdoor activities. Mail delivery in the Bristol area was delayed until late afternoon May 16, according to the U.S. Postal Service.

Source: http://www.phillyburbs.com/news/local/the_intelligencer_news/dow-chemical-fumes-from-storage-tank-fire-not-harmful/article_5a669818-f229-52b4-b1e4-cc7a47aea8e3.html

6. *May 17, U.S. Chemical Safety Board* – (Massachusetts; National) **CSB commends Massachusetts authorities for issuing tough hazardous materials storage and processing rules.** The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) commended Massachusetts authorities May 17 for improving the regulation of hazardous materials storage and processing, including monitoring of high-risk facilities to ensure they are complying with federal process safety and risk management programs. The action — taken by the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services — satisfied a key recommendation made by the CSB in its 2008 final report on the 2006 explosion at an ink and paint products manufacturing facility in Danvers. An

unattended mixing tank overheated in an unventilated building at CAI, Inc., causing the release of flammable vapors that ignited. The ensuing chemical explosion and fire injured 10 people, and destroyed and damaged dozens of homes and 6 businesses. The CSB investigation found CAI increased its quantities of flammable liquids, but the additional amounts went undetected by local authorities who did not inspect the site for more than 4 years before the incident. Massachusetts officials went beyond the intent of the CSB recommendations, noted the panel's chairman. The Massachusetts approach, if adopted by other states, has the potential of leveraging resources of fire authorities to complement the work of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Environmental Protection Authority with regard to high hazard facilities, he said.

Source: <http://www.csb.gov/newsroom/detail.aspx?nid=418>

7. *May 16, Fond du Lac Reporter* – (Wisconsin) **Theresa company cited for safety violations following worker death.** A Theresa, Wisconsin manufacturing company was fined \$64,600 for a dozen safety violations after a worker died and another was hospitalized from chemical exposure in November 2011, the Fond du Lac Reporter reported May 16. The violations against Vivid Image Inc. include two willful violations involving workers not wearing respiratory protection while working with the chemical toluene and being exposed to the chemical beyond peak levels, said a press release from the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). OSHA guidelines limit peak toluene exposure to 10 minutes per single time period for any 8-hour shift, with a time weighted average exposure of 200 parts per million. Toluene is a clear, colorless liquid and a common solvent for products such as paints, thinners, and glues. Vivid Image specializes in coating production and micro screens. The OSHA investigation also turned up 10 serious safety and health violations. Follow-up inspections were ordered for the plant.

Source: <http://www.fdlreporter.com/article/20120516/FON0101/120516050/Theresa-company-cited-safety-violations-following-worker-death?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

Nothing to report

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

8. *May 16, WLEX 18 Lexington* – (Kentucky) **Police search for suspect who stole parts from Toyota plant.** A former Toyota contractor was accused of stealing thousands of dollars in parts from a Scott County, Kentucky plant, WLEX 18 Lexington reported May 16. Toyota officials called police reporting 70 aluminum engine heads were stolen from the plant with an estimated value of \$30,000-\$50,000. An investigation revealed

the ex-contractor who still had a badge to access the building was taking the parts, throwing them over a fence, and coming back for them later. Police said he later took some of them to local scrap metal dealers and sold them for cash.

Source: <http://www.lex18.com/news/police-search-for-suspect-who-stole-parts-from-toyota-plant>

9. *May 16, WGEM 6 Quincy* – (Illinois) **Five-alarm fire at Doyle Manufacturing complex in Quincy.** Firefighters responded to a five-alarm fire at the Doyle Manufacturing complex in Quincy, Illinois, May 15. A Doyle spokesman said the fire was in a building where fertilizer equipment is painted. The building contained flammable materials like aerosol cans, which led to several explosions inside. The metal roof on that building collapsed on top of the fire, which made it difficult to fight. Crews were able to prevent the fire from spreading to the manufacturing facility. Emergency crews shut down Broadway from 38th to 48th streets for about 3 hours in order to drag fire hoses across the road.

Source: <http://www.wgem.com/story/18429883/three-alarm-fire-at-4001-broadway>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. *May 17, Global Security Newswire* – (Tennessee) **Y-12 to employ.** The Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, is set in May to begin its first use of a procedure that could assess nuclear-weapon components for degradation while leaving the part intact, the Knoxville News Sentinel reported May 16. “Nondestructive laser gas sampling” would not render sample bomb parts unusable, unlike vapor analytic processes previously employed at the site for such checks as well as “other weapons surveillance activities,” a National Nuclear Security Administration spokesman stated. Use of the new technique creates the “potential” for the continued service of tested systems, according to the spokesman.

Source: <http://www.nti.org/gsn/article/y-12-employ-nondestructive-nuke-system-evaluation-procedure/>

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Banking and Finance Sector

11. *May 17, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission* – (Pennsylvania; New Jersey) **SEC charges New Jersey man in real estate investment scam.** The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) May 17 charged a New Jersey man with operating a Ponzi-like scheme involving a series of investment vehicles formed for the purported purpose of purchasing and managing rental apartment buildings in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The SEC alleges the man induced investors to buy shares in investment vehicles he created through his firm Connolly Properties Inc. He promised investors monthly dividends based on cash-flow profits from rental income at the apartment buildings as well as the growth of their principal from the appreciation of the property. However, the real estate investments did not produce the projected dividends, and he

instead made Ponzi-like dividend payments to earlier investors using money from new investors. He also siphoned off at least \$2 million in investor funds for personal use. According to the complaint, none of the man's securities offerings in the investment vehicles were registered with the SEC as required under the federal securities laws. He began offering the investments in 1996 and ultimately raised in excess of \$50 million from more than 200 investors in more than 25 investment vehicles.

Source: <http://www.sec.gov/news/press/2012/2012-94.htm>

12. *May 16, threatpost* – (International) **Trojan mimics Chrome installer to steal banking information.** Malware impersonating a Google Chrome Installer is stealing data while stripping software used to protect online banking transactions. The trojan at present appears to target users in Brazil and Peru. Trend Micro researchers reported they discovered a malicious file called ChromeSetup.exe hosted in domains such as Facebook, MSN, Globo.com, Terra.com, and Google. Most appear tied to Brazil since .br or br. appears in the URLs. Once downloaded, the malware relays an infected machine's IP address and operating system to a command and control (C&C) server. Then, when a user tries to access a legitimate site, the trojan TSPY_BANKER.EUIQ intercepts the page request and displays a "Loading system security" dialog box while redirecting them to the fake site. Another component of the "Banker" malware uninstalls software called GbPlugin that is designed to protect bank customers during online banking. "It does this through the aid of gb_catchme.exe — a legitimate tool from GMER called Catchme, which was originally intended to uninstall malicious software," according to a threats analyst. While analyzing the C&C panel, Trend Micro researchers saw a spike in phone home logs from 400 to almost 6,000 in a 3-hour span — suggesting a malware outbreak or a migration to the C&C server. This represented 3,000 compromised machines, the post said. There is also evidence the malware has evolved since being found in the wild. Initially, it required three components be installed separately. Newer samples suggest all three components are now wrapped into one package.

Source: http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/trojan-mimics-chrome-installer-steal-banking-information-051612

13. *May 16, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission* – (Hawaii; California; International) **SEC charges U.S. perpetrators in \$35 million international boiler room scheme.** The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) May 16 charged a Hawaii resident and two firms he used for setting up a scheme in which he founded small firms, installed management, and recruited overseas boiler rooms that pressured investors into buying their stock while he pocketed more than \$2 million in consulting fees. The SEC alleges the man created eight U.S.-based companies to raise money through the sale of Regulation S stock, which is exempt from SEC registration. He handpicked the management, primarily a California man, and set up consulting arrangements through his firms — The Good One Inc. and Kaleidoscope Real Estate Inc. The SEC alleges the California manager drafted misleading materials that were provided to investors by telemarketers recruited primarily in Spain. The boiler rooms raised more than \$35 million. Meanwhile, the man instructed the manager and others to trade shares in the companies to create an illusion of activity and manipulate their price upwards. Investors paid for their stock by sending money to United States-based

escrow agents. The escrow agents paid 60 to 75 percent of the funds to the boiler rooms, kept 2.5 percent, and paid the rest to the companies that the man created. The companies then funneled about \$2.135 million back to the man in the form of consulting fees, and paid the manager about \$279,000.

Source: <http://www.sec.gov/news/press/2012/2012-93.htm>

14. *May 16, Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – (National) **New Yorkers who defrauded Atlanta investors convicted.** Two New Yorkers who defrauded investors in metro Atlanta and others out of more than \$12 million face prison after a federal jury convicted them May 16 of running a Ponzi investment scheme. Federal prosecutors said more than 150 people fell victim to promises by the couple that “sophisticated investors” would see returns of up to 20 percent a month through the couple’s “wealth enhancement club.” Instead, between 2003 and 2007, less than a third of the money collected by the couple’s New York-based ASM Financial Funding Corp. was invested, and all of that money was lost, prosecutors said. The remaining two-thirds of the funds was used for personal gain and to pay off intermediaries who helped recruit investors. Clients were told their profits would either be reinvested or returned to them in the form of monthly payments. The payments to early investors, however, were actually a portion of the money the clients had invested, and not actual earnings. The couple also issued monthly statements and tax forms showing bogus interest income, prosecutors said. For a while, the couple was able to persuade investors not to go to the authorities by promising future payouts, and warned that alerting the authorities could jeopardize those payments.

Source: <http://www.ajc.com/business/new-yorkers-who-defrauded-1438929.html>

15. *May 15, Longmont Times-Call* – (Colorado) **Longmont police arrest woman, 64, on suspicion of robbing Wells Fargo Bank.** Police have arrested a woman on suspicion of robbing the Wells Fargo Bank inside a Longmont, Colorado Safeway June 9, 2011, and attempting to rob it again on two other occasions. The suspect was arrested outside the bank May 14 after clerks called police to report she was back, according to a Longmont Police commander. According to police, the woman approached tellers at the bank June 9, 2011 with a note demanding cash and threatening to infect the clerk with AIDS. The clerk complied with the demand in the note and the robber got away with an undisclosed amount of money. The police commander said clerks recognized the woman from the first robbery when she returned to the bank March 27. She returned May 14 and clerks recognized her again and immediately called police. She left the bank without delivering her note and officers found her in a vehicle parked in a nearby parking lot. The police commander said a note demanding cash was recovered from her car.

Source: http://www.timescall.com/news/longmont-local-news/ci_20627875/longmont-police-arrest-woman-64-suspicion-robbing-wells

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Transportation Sector

16. *May 17, WSB 2 Atlanta* – (Georgia) **School bus sniper leaves note behind.** Clayton County, Georgia police used a note recovered at the scene to search for the gunman who aimed at children boarding a school bus, WSB 2 Atlanta reported May 17. Officers would not confirm what was in the note, but sources said it contained school bus numbers and drop-off times. Police also said they have persons of interest in the case, but indicated that information is in the early stages. Officers showed the Marlin 22 Model 60 rifle they believe the sniper dropped in a resident's back yard May 14 after a neighbor noticed him pointing the gun at children. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives is analyzing the rifle for clues. More than 60 officers went door to door to gather information that could lead them to the gunman.
Source: <http://www.wsbtv.com/news/news/local/school-bus-sniper-leaves-note-behind/nN7hG/>
17. *May 17, WDEL 1150 AM Wilmington* – (Delaware) **I-495 reopened after tractor-trailer crash.** Southbound Interstate 495 reopened after being closed for several hours May 17 due to a tractor trailer accident and fire in the southbound lanes just south of the I-95 split in Claymont, Delaware. Delaware State Police said the semi hauling a load of latex developed a flat tire, hit a guardrail and came to rest. The impact caused the fuel tank of the tractor to rupture, spilling about 50 gallons of fuel on to the roadway. A piece of wood underneath the vehicle caught fire, but was quickly extinguished. The roadway was reopened after about 4 hours.
Source: <http://www.wdel.com/story.php?id=42908>
18. *May 16, Federal Computer Week* – (National) **IG finds gaps in TSA reporting of security breaches.** Only about 4 out of 10 security breaches involving unauthorized access at airports are reported to the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) central performance database, according to a new audit. The acting inspector general (IG) at the DHS testified on the gaps in reporting to the House subcommittee on transportation May 16. He presented the results of his office's recent investigations of security breaches involving unauthorized access at U.S. commercial airports. Those breaches are defined as incidents in which one or more people gain access to a protected-access area of the airport without being screened or inspected under the TSA's standard operating procedures. The TSA documents the breaches at each airport, and TSA staff is supposed to forward the documents to the agency's central database. The audit showed inconsistent reporting. "We determined that only 42 percent of the security breaches we reviewed in individual airport files were reported in TSA's official record," the IG said. The audit also found corrective action was taken for only 53 percent of the breaches reviewed. The IG also mentioned a related audit that found other gaps in security at the airports, including incomplete vetting and verifications of employee identification information.
Source: <http://fcw.com/articles/2012/05/16/tsa-reporting-gaps.aspx>
19. *May 16, Main Line Media News* – (Pennsylvania) **Overnight rains bring flooding to Berwyn, Radnor.** Heavy rains in Pennsylvania brought flooding to portions of Tredyffrin, Easttown, and Radnor townships May 16, with 3-4 inches falling in a

localized storm cell. Radnor and Berwyn firefighters were called to help people trapped by flood waters at Lancaster and Meadowcroft Avenues in Wayne, and Church and Sugartown Roads in Berwyn. Six people were reported rescued from autos by Berwyn firefighters. In Upper Merion, the King of Prussia Fire Company reported making numerous rescues of motorists stuck in water along North Gulph Road near the Schuylkill Expressway. Arden Road in Radnor, from Upper Gulph Road to the Upper Merion Township Line, and the 500 block of Maplewood Avenue were closed while debris was cleared. Pugh Road also was cleared of debris. In addition, there was flooding along Lancaster Avenue in front of Devon Manor in Devon.

Source:

http://www.mainlinemedianews.com/articles/2012/05/16/main_line_suburban_life/new/s/doc4fb39d8451a2c545867044.txt?viewmode=fullstory

20. *May 16, Truckinginfo* – (National) **NHTSA unveils proposed stability control mandate.** The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration proposed a first-ever federal motor vehicle safety standard to require electronic stability control (ESC) systems on large commercial trucks and buses, Truckinginfo reported May 16. The rule would affect vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 26,000 pounds. As proposed, the rule would take effect between 2-4 years after the standard is finalized, depending on the type of vehicle. The proposal also includes standards for performance testing of the technology. Agency research shows the technology could prevent up to 56 percent of rollover crashes each year, and another 14 percent of loss-of-control crashes.

Source: http://www.truckinginfo.com/news/news-detail.asp?news_id=76971

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Postal and Shipping Sector

21. *May 16, CNN* – (Texas) **Feds offer \$150,000 reward in probe of hundreds of letters with white powder.** Federal agents have been stymied in their long search for a man who mails envelopes containing white powder and usually a message of some kind. Investigators from the FBI and U.S. Postal Inspection Service in the Dallas-Fort Worth area in Texas hope that a reward announced May 16 may help locate the individual who has now sent an estimated 380 white-powder envelopes since he first began the practice in 2008. Analysts have developed few clues to date, because the mailer has managed to erase fingerprints or other identifiers. The FBI in Dallas and Washington, D.C. would not comment on whether the individual is the same one who early this year sent white-powder envelopes to dozens of members of Congress. However, the FBI in Dallas said the man seems to have recently focused more on schools than government offices. All of the envelopes proved to be harmless and contained no toxic substances. However, in the past 2 weeks, the man has sent more than 20 white-powder letters to early childhood development centers and elementary schools. Officials stressed that every envelope must be carefully screened. The process is time-consuming and expensive. The reward totals \$150,000 for information that leads to the arrest,

prosecution, and conviction of the perpetrator.

Source: http://www.cnn.com/2012/05/16/justice/texas-letters-white-powder/index.html?hpt=hp_t2

For more stories, see items [5](#) and [34](#)

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Agriculture and Food Sector

22. *May 16, KFSM 5 Fort Smith* – (Arkansas) **No bomb found at Arkansas Butterball plant.** Dispatchers were notified May 16 of a bomb threat to the Butterball plant in Ozark, Arkansas, the Franklin County sheriff said. About 20 employees were evacuated to a nearby park, and a perimeter was setup around the plant. The Bentonville bomb squad brought a bomb-sniffing dog to search the facility, but found nothing. Employees have since returned to work. “There will be, I’m sure, several thousands of dollars lost in production for the company and we will seek restitution or some sort of compensation for the company,” said the Ozark police chief.
Source: http://ozarksfirst.com/fulltext?nxd_id=646712
23. *May 16, Fresno Bee* – (California) **April hail caused \$79 million in farm damage.** Damage to fruit crops from a devastating hail storm in April has reached \$79.3 million in the central San Joaquin Valley of California, the Fresno Bee reported May 16. In Kings County — one of the region’s hardest hit — agricultural officials have requested a disaster declaration from the State and U.S. Department of Agriculture. The deputy agriculture commissioner for Kings County said officials recently updated their damage total from \$20 million to \$25.3 million after receiving additional reports from farmers. Suffering the worst damage in Kings County were nectarine farmers, who lost \$7.1 million worth of their crop to the hail.
Source: <http://www.fresnobee.com/2012/05/16/2839855/central-valley-damage-estimates.html>
24. *May 16, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **Western Slope rancher reports missing cattle.** A rancher southeast of Palisade, Colorado, reported 33 head of cattle as missing, the Associated Press reported May 16. The cattle disappeared in January and range in age from 5 to 8 years old. The animals are branded on their left shoulder with an underlined number five and a diamond. The executive vice president of the Colorado Cattleman’s Association said the livestock, valued at about \$50,000, are presumed to be stolen because the animals have been missing for a fair amount of time. He said that that many cattle could fill a semitrailer.
Source: <http://www.gazette.com/news/missing-138725-rancher-reports.html>
25. *May 16, Omaha World-Herald* – (Iowa) **2 arrested in copper theft.** Two Omaha men were in custody after they allegedly stole copper May 15 from a farm north of Council Bluffs, Iowa. According to the Pottawattamie County, Iowa Sheriff’s Office, a farmer reported the alarms on two of his central-pivot irrigation units had been activated, indicating an attempt to steal copper from the units. When deputies arrived, they found

copper wires had been stripped from the irrigation systems. They located the two men later that morning and arrested them on suspicion of second-degree theft and second-degree criminal mischief. Damage to the two irrigation units totaled \$10,000.

Source: <http://www.omaha.com/article/20120516/NEWS97/120519706/1702>

26. *May 15, Maryland Gazette* – (Maryland) **Seeds found at BWI were invasive weed species.** Federal authorities have confirmed that two seeds found last winter in a traveler's bag at BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, were highly invasive weed species, Customs and Border Protection officials said the week of May 14. U.S. Department of Agriculture botanists confirmed May 7 the seeds discovered January 27 were *Mimosa pigra*, commonly known as giant sensitive plant, and *Mimosa diplotricha*, commonly known as giant false sensitive plant. The seeds were discovered in a bag of cumin seed being carried by a passenger from India. The weeds were quarantined for testing, and the cumin seeds were burned.

Source: http://www.capitalgazette.com/maryland_gazette/news/for_the_record/seeds-found-at-bwi-were-invasive-weed-species/article_d2cc4708-7e6b-5451-8ae5-33c0b9eb06fe.html

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Water Sector

27. *May 17, WCBS 2 New York* – (New York) **Saw Mill River contamination concerns arise after Yonkers warehouse fire.** A paint warehouse fire that began May 16 sparked environmental concerns in Yonkers, New York, May 17, according to CBS New York. HAZMAT crews were on scene trying to prevent chemicals from contaminating the Saw Mill River. Fire officials received several complaints about a chemical smell in the area but no evacuation was issued. At the height of the blaze, 75 firefighters were on the scene, four suffered minor injuries. Officials set up booms and laid sand near the river to stop the chemical runoff from seeping into the water. A Red Cross spokesman said her organization was standing by in the event of an evacuation. The fire chief said the one-story warehouse will have to be completely leveled.

Source: <http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2012/05/17/saw-mill-river-contamination-concerns-arise-after-yonkers-warehouse-fire/>

28. *May 16, Half Moon Bay Review* – (California) **Plant failure causes water shortage in La Honda.** The Cuesta La Honda Guild reported it can no longer treat water to fill storage tanks for the La Honda community in San Mateo County, California, after a treatment plant malfunction May 15. The guild has enough potable water in storage to last about 3 days, but officials were unsure when the water plant would work again. Residents were urged to conserve water. The board president said the board is ready to purchase wholesale water that could be delivered to the area if necessary. An electrical surge blew out a lot of equipment used to pump water at the plant.

Source: http://www.hmbreview.com/news/plant-failure-causes-water-shortage-in-la-honda/article_1a91b8e0-9f7e-11e1-86cf-0019bb2963f4.html

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

29. *May 17, Utica Observer-Dispatch* – (New York) **Prosecutor: Man upset by bill spread mercury in Albany hospital.** A man upset over a hospital bill is accused of putting others at risk by repeatedly spreading a known neurotoxin throughout the cafeteria at New York's Albany Medical Center. According to the U.S. attorney's office, the man is accused of placing mercury on various surfaces in the cafeteria and in the food being served on four separate occasions between March 2011 and March 2012. At least one person required emergency medical treatment after eating the mercury-tainted food, a news release stated. He was indicted the week of May 14 on two counts of violating the chemical weapon statute, which prohibits the possession or stockpiling of toxic chemicals, and one count of violating the consumer product tampering statute. The Environmental Protection Agency, the Food & Drug Administration, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation are assisting in the investigation. Additional assistance also was provided by the Albany and Ulster town police departments.
Source: <http://www.uticaod.com/latestnews/x1986337647/Prosecutor-Man-upset-by-bill-spread-mercury-in-Albany-hospital>

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Government Facilities Sector

30. *May 16, KJRH 2 Tulsa* – (Oklahoma) **Bartlesville student arrested for plan to explode 'bleach bomb' in class.** Police arrested a Bartlesville, Oklahoma student May 15 after he was found at school with materials to make a "bleach bomb." According to police, school officials called police after discovering bleach in the student's locker and aluminum foil on his person. They made the discovery after a fellow student told school officials the student spoke of a plan to blow up a bleach bomb in science class. After school officials found the materials, they contacted his parents, had him removed from the school, and called police. Police arriving to the school took the materials, then met the student at his home where they arrested him. They anticipate charging him with possession of explosive items.
Source: <http://www.kjrh.com/dpp/news/bartlesville-student-arrested-for-plan-to-explode-bleach-bomb-in-class>
31. *May 16, South Florida Sun-Sentinel* – (Florida) **Mysterious rash at McArthur High prompts mass casualty hazmat response.** McArthur High School in Hollywood, Florida, was the scene of a mass casualty response May 16 after a mysterious rash prompted a lockdown that sent 12 students and 2 teachers to hospitals. The regional HAZMAT response team did not find a residue or other cause of the rash in the school. Meanwhile, 75-80 other students were moved from the affected building to other areas of the school. Responders placed a patient isolation device inside a Broward County bus that was commandeered to transport victims to hospitals. Memorial Regional Hospital prepared for the patients' arrivals, and outdoor decontamination showers were set up in a parking garage. "After consultation with the hospital's infection control

experts and the department of health’s epidemiology team, we ruled out any infectious conditions,” said a spokesperson for the emergency departments at Memorial and Joe DiMaggio Children’s Hospital.

Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/health/fl-mcarthur-high-rash-20120516,0,4883047.story?page=1#>

32. *May 16, Associated Press* – (North Carolina) **4 children exposed to mercury at Lenoir school.** Authorities said four students at a Lenoir, North Carolina elementary school were taken to the hospital after they were exposed to mercury May 16. Officials said a fifth-grader at Whitnel Elementary School brought a vial of mercury to school and it spilled. The four children exposed to the chemical were decontaminated on the scene and taken to the hospital for observation. The school was evacuated, and children were taken to a nearby church while crews clean up the mercury spill.
Source: <http://www.reflector.com/ap/staten/4-children-exposed-mercury-lenoir-school-1068783>

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Emergency Services Sector

33. *May 17, Reuters* – (Texas; National) **Texas death prompts call for better protecting firefighters.** Hot shot federal firefighters called in to battle the toughest U.S. wildfires often avoid reporting symptoms of heatstroke because they fear damaging their professional reputations, said a report commissioned after an elite firefighter died in Texas in 2011. The report, released May 16, said the death of the Texas firefighter was of heatstroke, and recommended ways federal officials can better protect firefighters’ lives. On the day of his death, firefighters were working faster and with fewer breaks than normal, the report said. The report by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health said interviews with Hot Shot firefighters revealed they worry about being re-hired for the next fire season and do not report heatstroke symptoms “out of fear of discipline or reprisal, or out of fear of losing hard-earned credibility.” The report recommended the Bureau of Land Management develop strategies to address the job-security fears. It also called for reducing the length of shifts in which firefighters are directly exposed to high temperatures, requiring them to work in pairs, and more quickly summoning medical help when firefighters report heatstroke symptoms.
Source: <http://af.reuters.com/article/commoditiesNews/idAFL1E8GGT0820120517?sp=true>
34. *May 17, Williamsport Sun-Gazette* – (Pennsylvania) **Testing shows white powder likely harmless.** A suspicious package containing a mysterious white, powdery substance sent the State Federal Correction Institute in Muncy, Pennsylvania, into a state of emergency and sent five mail room workers to the hospital May 16. “Mail room staff discovered a white, powdery substance in an incoming package that was being mailed to an inmate. As a precautionary measure, we isolated, contained and immediately evacuated the area,” said the assistant superintendent for the prison.

Emergency responders from Clinton Township, Hughesville, and Muncy helped set up a decontamination station. The workers were examined by first responders and taken to area hospitals for evaluation. An investigator from the U.S. Postal Service responded to the scene and was able to test the powdery substance on site; the substance was revealed to be relatively harmless with a lactose-base.

Source: <http://www.sungazette.com/page/content.detail/id/578383/Testing-shows-white-powder-likely-harmless.html?nav=5011#license-578383>

For another story, see item [6](#)

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Information Technology Sector

35. *May 17, H Security* – (International) **RealPlayer update fixes security vulnerabilities.** RealNetworks is warning users about multiple security vulnerabilities in its RealPlayer media player application for Windows; the company says none of the now fixed holes are known to have been used to compromise systems. The released update, Version 15.0.4.53 of RealPlayer, closes three security holes. One hole is related to ASM RuleBook parsing that could be exploited by an attacker to remotely execute arbitrary code, another is a memory corruption problem related to MP4 file handling in the QuickTime plugin used by RealPlayer, and the third is a buffer overrun in the Media parser. RealPlayer Versions 11.0 to 11.1 and 14.0.0 to 15.0.3.37, as well as RealPlayer SP 1.0 to 1.1.5 are affected; RealPlayer for Mac is not vulnerable. RealPlayer 15.0.4.53 — available for Windows 7, Vista SP1, and XP SP3 — corrects these problems.

Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/RealPlayer-update-fixes-security-vulnerabilities-1578444.html>

36. *May 17, Softpedia* – (International) **Worm uses Facebook PMs and instant messaging apps to spread.** Researchers from Trend Micro recently reported that a piece of malware, identified as Worm_Steckct.evl, is distributed via a link sent in private messages on Facebook and instant messaging programs. The shortened links contained in the posts point to an archive called “May09- Picture18.JPG_www(dot)facebook.com.zip” which hides a file named “May09-Picture18.JPG_www(dot)facebook.com.” The .com extension reveals the malware is an executable file. Once it is run, the worm terminates all the processes and services created by security software, ensuring antivirus applications cannot disrupt its processes. Steckct.evl then downloads another worm, detected as Worm_Eboom.ac, which monitors the victim’s browsing sessions. It does not only log the posts and private messages the user creates or deletes on Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, WordPress, or Meebo, but it can also spread by utilizing the user’s active session on these sites.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Worm-Uses-Facebook-PM-s-and-Instant-Messaging-Apps-to-Spread-270148.shtml>

37. *May 17, H Security* – (International) **DoS vulnerability in Bitcoin.** The developers of Bitcoin, the anonymous digital currency system, fixed a flaw in the system that allowed

malicious users to perform denial-of-service attacks on a victim's node, causing it to stop receiving updates from the Bitcoin network. To send and receive payments, Bitcoin nodes encode the transfer information into blocks of data that get aggregated into a globally distributed block chain. Each transaction is cryptographically signed and linked to the previous one. For this system to work, the user's client needs to communicate with the global network frequently to keep up to date with the transactions that have happened since the last time it was online. If a node is isolated from the network for a significant amount of time, it cannot initiate or receive transfers of bitcoins. The developers did not yet explain how the vulnerability in the Bitcoin software can be exploited — they want to give users sufficient time to patch their clients before releasing information that could be used by hackers to reverse engineer a working exploit. They have, however, released version 0.6.2 of the client that fixes the problem. Backports of the fix for versions 0.5.5 and 0.4.6 are also available. The developers stated the vulnerability cannot be used to compromise users' wallets. Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/DoS-vulnerability-in-Bitcoin-1578558.html>

38. *May 17, H Security* – (International) **Security vulnerability in sudo's netmask function patched.** The developers of sudo released updates to the privilege elevating utility to patch a bug that allows an attacker to execute commands they should not be able to access on a remote system. Shortly after, they issued a regular update that includes these fixes along with several new features. Sudo versions 1.8.4p5 and 1.7.9p1 fix a security issue in the program that can allow a legitimate user who is included in the sudoers file to run commands on other hosts. When sudo is asked to run a command by a user, it consults sudoers to see if the user has permission. Sudoers rules include the ability to define permission by the host's IP address by matching with absolute addresses or matching with a netmask specification. It is the matching with netmasks, which are typically used to allocate users permissions by subnet, where the problem lies. The flaw is present in the IP network matching code of sudo versions 1.6.9p3 through 1.8.4p4. The exploit was reported internally through Red Hat's Bugzilla bug tracking system and was already fixed in Ubuntu by backporting the fix to older versions of the package. Red Hat is also expected to fix its versions of sudo soon. The project advised all users to update to a patched version of the program as soon as possible. Where they cannot upgrade, users are advised to switch to defining host permissions using IP addresses instead of netmasks. Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Security-vulnerability-in-sudo-s-netmask-function-patched-1578395.html>
39. *May 17, H Security* – (International) **Apache details OpenOffice 3.4 security fixes.** Following the release of Apache OpenOffice 3.4.0 the week of May 7, the Apache Software Foundation (ASF) detailed the security fixes included in the new version of the open source productivity suite. According to the ASF, the first stable release of OpenOffice under its governance addresses three security vulnerabilities, all of which are rated as "important." These include an integer overflow error when handling embedded images and a memory overwrite bug when loading WordPerfect files, both of which could allow for the execution of arbitrary code. The third hole is related to unchecked memory allocations in malformed PowerPoint files that the

developers say could be used to cause a denial-of-service. Attacks on all these flaws would require the user to open a specially crafted file. OpenOffice.org 3.3 and the beta version of 3.4 are affected; earlier versions may also be vulnerable. The Security Team advises all users to upgrade to the final 3.4 release.

Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Apache-details-OpenOffice-3-4-security-fixes-1578504.html>

40. *May 16, H Security* – (International) **Avira update puts behaviour recognition on hold.** Security firm Avira disabled the ProActiv behavior recognition module in some of its products with an update. A few days after the release of “Service Pack 0” May 14, the company’s security software unexpectedly blocked the access to important systems components. As a consequence, some computers did not start at all, while others could only be booted in secure mode. May 15, Avira announced it solved the behavior recognition problem with an update. Avira said the patch can be installed by updating manually to solve the problem. What the company did not say is the update simply disables the ProActiv behavior recognition module — which is not even listed in the extended configuration dialog once the update is installed.

Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Avira-update-puts-behaviour-recognition-on-hold-1578360.html>

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Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at sos@us-cert.gov or visit their Web site: <http://www.us-cert.gov>

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Web site: <https://www.it-isac.org>

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Communications Sector

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Commercial Facilities Sector

41. *May 17, WTVF 5 Nashville* – (Tennessee) **Fire at Dickson church investigated as arson.** A blaze that destroyed the kitchen of a Dickson, Tennessee church May 16 was being investigated as arson. Firefighters arrived to find heavy flames at the New Hope Baptist Church. Crews contained the fire inside the kitchen area of the fellowship hall, but the room was destroyed. There were also reports that there were break-ins and vandalism to church offices around the time the fire started.

Source: <http://www.newschannel5.com/story/18475167/fire-at-dickson-church-investigated-as-arson>

42. *May 17, WKRC 12 Cincinnati* – (Ohio) **Middletown apartment manager leads police to meth lab.** A meth-making operation was found at a Middletown, Ohio apartment complex, WKRC 12 Cincinnati reported May 17. The apartment manager led police to the lab. The apartment building where police caught two men making meth was evacuated for 6 hours as the lab was destroyed. It was not clear how the men got into the apartment. The current tenants were in the process of moving out and were not home at the time of the arrests.
Source: <http://www.local12.com/news/local/story/Middletown-Apartment-Manager-Leads-Police-To-Meth/edd25HSMRUOjSFf0DzmYNA.csp>
43. *May 17, Associated Press* – (Georgia) **Gunman gives up in historic Savannah standoff.** A gunman surrendered after barricading himself inside a landmark restaurant in a standoff that closed parts of Savannah, Georgia's 18th-century historic district for more than 3 hours May 17. A Savannah-Chatham County police spokeswoman said the man was taken into custody without incident after a SWAT team entered the upscale Olde Pink House restaurant. Investigators were still trying to sort out what led to the standoff, but initial details pointed to a botched kidnapping. The standoff shut down streets, squares, and tourist spots in the city. The trouble started when a plainclothes officer outside a coffee shop saw a silver Jaguar jump a curb and the driver bounded out shouting, "Help me! I'm being kidnapped," according to a Savannah-Chatham County police spokeswoman. A man in the passenger seat pointed a gun at the officer, who then fired a shot at the suspect and missed. The gunman bolted and ran about 3 blocks to the restaurant. The driver told police he was being forced to take the gunman to an ATM and withdraw money while another suspect held his son hostage. Police found the 11-year-old boy unharmed at home, and later arrested a second man who fled from the home about 3 miles from the restaurant standoff.
Source: <http://www.wset.com/story/18487730/gunman-police-in-standoff-in-downtown-savannah>
44. *May 16, Austin American-Statesman* – (Texas) **Residents evacuated from southeast Austin apartments.** Twenty-five people were evacuated May 16 from an Austin, Texas apartment building after authorities said its second-floor walkway could collapse. Austin fire officials said several residents called apartment management when they felt the balcony sagging underneath them while they were walking. Structural engineers surveyed the complex and determined its walkway was detaching. Residents were immediately evacuated, fire officials said.
Source: http://www.statesman.com/blogs/content/shared-gen/blogs/austin/blotter/entries/2012/05/16/residents_evacuated_from_east.html?cxntfid=blogs_the_blotter
45. *May 16, WSAZ 3 Charleston* – (West Virginia) **Police say motel room meth labs on the increase.** Eighty-five to 90 rooms at a Barboursville, West Virginia hotel were closed until further notice after police busted what they said was an active meth lab May 16. The meth lab raid sparked an evacuation of one wing at the Days Inn. Police arrested three at the scene. Meth cooks are moving to motel rooms to keep their homes, cars, and outbuildings safe from seizure, according to police.
Source:

http://www.wsaz.com/news/huntingtonnews/headlines/Two_Arrested_Following_Hotel_Meth_Lab_Bust_151670555.html

46. *May 15, azfamily.com* – (Arizona) **Flashlight bombs injure 3 in Glendale.** Two flashlights with explosives inside were left in public places in Glendale, Arizona, May 15, causing minor injuries to three people. Police said in both cases, the explosive device was housed in a very basic and inexpensive yellow 6-volt battery flashlight. Police said both were found by unsuspecting people in commercial or industrial areas. In both cases, the bomb detonated when the flashlight was turned on. The two incidents happened on opposite ends of town but appeared related.
Source: <http://www.azfamily.com/news/Flashlight-bombs-injure-3-in-Glendale-151465285.html>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

47. *May 17, Associated Press* – (Arizona) **Fire that prompted evacuations in Arizona mining town nearly triples in size.** The Arizona fire in the Prescott National Forest grew to an estimated 5,400 acres, or nearly 8.5 square miles, May 16 — up from about 2,000 acres a day earlier. High winds have helped fan the flames, and fire officials were expecting similar conditions for the next few days. Most of Crown King's 350 residents had already evacuated their homes. The fire has destroyed two homes and a trailer. The fire started at an occupied home, but fire investigators have yet to determine the cause. It remained 5 percent contained May 16.
Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/us/2012/05/17/fire-that-prompted-evacuations-in-arizona-mining-town-nearly-triples-in-size/>
48. *May 17, Billings Gazette* – (Montana) **Wildfire near Ashland 100% contained.** Crews have contained a wildfire burning in the Ashland Ranger District in Montana. The Stag fire started May 13 and has burned about 1,230 acres. A district spokeswoman said some crews had been released from the area, but that they kept several engines, a helicopter, and a water tender on scene due to concerns that dry weather and high temperatures could reignite the blaze. By May 17, all that remained were three engine crews, a four-person squad from Lewistown, and a helicopter to monitor the lines and weather conditions.
Source: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/wildfire-near-ashland-contained/article_89bbbbb00-3848-55e5-9e4d-78396a26080f.html
49. *May 17, KUSA 9 Denver* – (Colorado) **Hewlett Gulch wildfire in Poudre Canyon causes mandatory evacuations, is 5,090 acres.** Authorities said a fire burning northwest of Fort Collins, Colorado, has significantly grew in size overnight May 16-17 to 5,090 acres. The Larimer County Sheriff's Office issued a mandatory evacuation order from Bonner Springs Ranch Road to 287 and South. An evacuation center was established at Cache La Poudre Middle School. Nearly 400 fire personnel were battling

the blaze. The wildfire broke out in Poudre Canyon near the Hewlett Gulch Trail in Roosevelt National Forest May 14. Containment was still at about 5 percent May 17. A firefighter suffered minor injuries May 15, and was treated and released. A difficult hike to the fire, as well as limited access through the roads challenged firefighting teams. A Single Engine Air Tanker and Type 1 and 3 helicopters worked on the fire throughout the day May 15. By the next day, however, the winds were too high for the air operations to be used.

Source: <http://www.9news.com/news/article/268319/71/Crews-hope-to-protect-structures-near-Hewlett-Gulch-wildfire-in-Poudre-Canyon-acreage-is-5090-acres>

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Dams Sector

50. *May 16, KGTV 10 San Diego* – (California) **San Vicente Dam rising to new heights.** Crews raising the San Vicente Dam near San Diego have passed the height of the original, KGTV 10 San Diego reported May 16. Since the fall of 2011, roller-compacted concrete has been used to raise the original 220-foot dam an additional 117 feet to a final height of 337 feet. It is the largest dam raise in U.S. history. The \$450 million project will provide 500,000 San Diego residents with emergency water in the event of the worst-case scenario. San Diego County imports almost all of its water. A major earthquake, terrorist attack, or severe drought could cut off its water supply. Construction is expected to be finished this spring.

Source: <http://www.10news.com/news/31074092/detail.html>

51. *May 16, Olympic Peninsula Daily News* – (Washington) **Dam removal ahead of schedule: Glines gone in a year.** The Glines Canyon Dam, the upper dam on the Elwha River in Washington, will be completely removed ahead of schedule between spring and summer 2013, federal officials said May 15. The last remnants of the lower Elwha dam were removed in March. A sedimentation and river hydraulics expert with the Bureau of Land Management said, “We should be done around the spring of 2013.” He told the city council the movement of up to 24 million cubic yards of sediment behind the two dams is proceeding according to models devised for the project. “Within three to five years from now is the general expectation that the reservoirs will no longer contribute sediment in significant quantities,” he said. Removal of the 99-year-old Elwha and 85-year-old Glines Canyon dams west of Port Angeles is the cornerstone of the \$325 million Elwha River restoration project to restore the river’s fish runs by unblocking the river.

Source:

<http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20120517/NEWS/305179992/dam-removal-ahead-of-schedule-glines-gone-in-a-year>

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